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## Excellent Choice

PRESIDENT JOHNSON chose well in elevating the Government's top career intelligence officer, Richard M. Helms, to directorship of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Dick Helms is an exceptionally able public servant. The words customarily used to describe him—"brilliant," "dedicated" and "unbiased"—are accurate.

Going from the Navy into the Office of Strategic Services (the CIA's predecessor) in 1943, Mr. Helms has spent the years since continuously in Government intelligence, rising through the ranks until only little more than a year ago he was named deputy director of the CIA under the now-retiring Admiral William F. Raborn.

Thus, he knows inside-out the faults, strengths, plans and machinery of this most complicated, controversial but all-essential Government agency. His record commends and fits him to take over the reins.

He knows that one of the greatest needs of the CIA today is a better public image—not that it is nearly as bad as some claim. But it needs to be better, for it is an agency essential to the welfare of our country.

Many in the Scripps-Howard newspaper organization have known Dick Helms since the pre-War II days when he was director of national advertising for The Indianapolis Times, a sister newspaper.

Our wager is he can turn in the performance required.